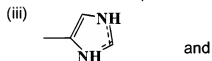
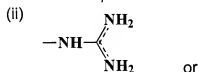


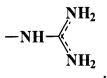
## REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and are subject to an election/restriction requirement. The Examiner contends that the claims are directed to patentably distinct species and has required Applicants to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits. The claims are directed to a process for preparing a N-alpha-acyl-L-arginine ester, and the Examiner has required election to a species of the formula recited in claims 1, 14, and 19 where (A)  $R_3$  is selected from one of the following:



(B)  $n$  is selected from (a) 0, (b) 1, 2, or 4, or (c) 3.

Applicants elect with traverse a species of (A)(ii)/(B)(c) where  $R_3$  is



and  $n$  is 3.

Applicants traverse the restriction on the ground that it would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to examine the various species. In particular, there are a limited number of  $R_3$  groups and limited number of values for  $n$ , which relates to the number of  $\text{—(CH}_2\text{)—}$  groups in the formula recited in claims 1, 14, and 19. Thus, while there are a number of different combinations or alternative compounds, the number is not so large that examining each  $R_3$  group and each  $n$  would be an undue burden on the Examiner.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the Application is now ready for prosecution on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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